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Reserve

PMA FARM NEWS

HOW MUCH FOOD IN THE FLOOD? Statistics on flood and wind damage often tell how many acres of crops were destroyed but they do not tell how many future crops were washed away with the top-soil of the land that went down the river — or how much food was blown away in the wind.

An inch of top-soil from nearly 5 million acres would be required to keep the Mississippi River dumping its annual load of 730 million tons into the Gulf of Mexico. If this erosion were limited to a certain 5 million acres, it would take only a few years to strip this land down to the subsoil.

But soil loss when thought of in terms of crops lost really becomes startling. A half a million acres of cropland destroyed each year by erosion actually means that so much corn, wheat, cotton, potatoes, pasture, beef, milk and eggs will not be produced. It is not just a loss for this year or next year but the loss goes on year after year.

The point of vital concern to the Nation "is the 50 to 100 bushels of corn which can never be produced from the soil that is gone. It is the 200 bushels of potatoes per acre — the 20 bushels of wheat — the 3 or 4 tons of hay — that cannot be produced because the soil is not there. If the soil loss continues unchecked for a period of 10, 50 and 100 years, the results in terms of food are tremendous.

"It is potential food that goes down the river in the flood and blows away in the wind. It is the means of sustaining life — in a way it is life itself — which is lost. To check this loss is the real purpose of the Agricultural Conservation Program."

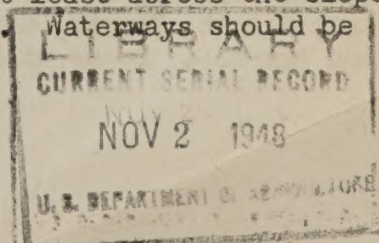
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NO CHANGE IN EGG SUPPORT LEVEL Government price supports for eggs sold in the Midwest will continue during July at the same level as during May and June, the Department of Agriculture has announced. This means that firms selling dried eggs to the Department under its current programs must certify that they have paid producers prices reflecting an average of at least 35 cents a dozen for all the shell eggs they buy.

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RIGHT ROTATION AIDS CONSERVATION The right conservation practices and proper rotations are the best prescriptions for the land, says _____ chairman of the _____ parish agricultural conservation committee.

The kind of practices needed depend on the problem, the chairman points out. Steep slopes may have to be kept in sod and tree crops to keep the soil from getting away. On more gentle slopes, cultivated crops may safely be grown if a sod cover 1 or 2 years out of every 3 to 5 is a part of the rotation. Even then the land may have to be farmed on the contour — at least across the slope instead of up and down — and terraces may be necessary. Waterways should be sodded to prevent gullies.



The chairman points out that even on gentle slopes erosion becomes serious where the land is kept in cultivated crops too long. Run-off and erosion are often four or five times as great on land that is in a row crop year after year as on land with a short rotation of sod crops alternating with row crops.

Farmers cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program should incorporate the needed conservation practices as a part of their whole farming operation, he advises. Rotations, the application of materials, the dirt moving practices and farming on the contour all work together to save soil and conserve moisture. "Each part fits in to help make the other parts effective. They support each other and make for lasting results."

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IS YOUR FARM COMING OR GOING?

Are you driving your farm away from home?

There may be a good fence around the place but unless the soil is treated right it can jump the fence in a good wind or crawl under in a good rain. "The fence may still be there but the farm may be gone. And the part first to go is the top soil, the part from which come the 'crops.'"

And good top soil is getting away from most farmers every year. On some farms — where the land has been overworked and "underfed" — it may be getting away rapidly. Some soils erode easier than others. Some farms are on hillsides and gravity helps in the movement.

The Agricultural Conservation Program is helping farmers with soil and water conservation practices which do a lot to keep the farm home. At this time of the year pasture improvement is specifically emphasized. It is not so much how many more cows can be kept on a pasture after lime and phosphate have been used as it is how much of the pasture can be kept on the farm instead of having it wash or blow away.

Improving the pasture so that it will keep more cows is important but it is also important to tie the land down with grass and legumes so they will be there indefinitely and keep on producing.

Across the slope plowing and cultivating, terraces where they are needed, trees for windbreaks, dams to stop the run-off, sod waterways, strip-cropping — all are conservation practices in the Program which are set up to help farmers hold their land.

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RICE PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Loans will be used to support the price of 1948-crop rice at 90 percent of parity

as of August 1, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

From the time of harvest through December 31, loans will be available to producers and associations of producers in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas. Classes and varieties of eligible rough rice includes Edith, Fortuna, Lady Wright, Rexoro, Nira, Blue Rose, Early Prolific, Pearl, Calady, Patna, Zenith, and Arkrose. Loans will mature on April 30, 1949, or earlier upon demand.

Rice eligible for loan must grade U. S. No. 4 or better, must be of fair or better milling quality (milling test for California rice), and must contain not more than $14\frac{1}{2}$ percent of moisture (15 percent in California). Commingled rice stores in approved public warehouses will not be accepted for loan unless the warehouseman assumes responsibility for weights, grades, and milling quality or test.

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F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

RECOGNITION GIVEN ACP WORK

The June issue of COUNTRY GENTLEMEN carries an article by Bob Kinseley entitled "Bluestem Beef."

The article quotes at some length the advice of Teece L. Lewis, called by the author "AAA administrator of Osage county, Oklahoma." The article opens with "Teece L. Lewis, Osage County AAA Administrator, whose office has done much to foster the pasture management program," and continues with advice on pasture management.

The Kansas edition of the Weekly Kansas City Star in a story of how E. M. Poirot of Golden, Missouri, built a farm back into good production gives credit to the AAA program for the increase in the use of lime in improving the farm.

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WHO BENEFITS FROM CONSERVATION?

A few folks along Main Street are beginning to realize that they depend on the soil just

as much as the farmer. Many are taking an increasingly active part in pushing conservation practices to hold and build the soil on the farms from which they must get their food — and often their business. An example of this is an excellent 3 quarter page ad in a Washington county Kansas newspaper, sponsored by local business firms. This ad was directed at farmers, urging them to cooperate in conservation programs. Conservation practices under the 1948 ACP are listed. It called attention to the loss of three inches of top-soil in this country since the Pilgrim fathers landed and said, "With soil eroding at the high rate of speed it is today, this very thing (the ever present threat of famine) could happen in the United States BEFORE THE END OF THE CENTURY!"

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